

Keeney Chronicles



May 2016

a Message from the
Principal

Mrs. Martin

Greetings Keeney Community,

It's hard to believe that this is the final Keeney Cub Chronicles for this school year!

I want to take this moment and thank all of our families and staff members for working hard together to make this a productive, positive, and learning focused year. Through the challenges we encountered along the way, we came together as a community to ensure that the most optimal service was delivered to our students and families.

I want to thank the 5th grade teachers, students, and families for working so hard to make a smooth transition to new classrooms in the middle of the year. Our 5th grade students who now occupy "the wing" have adjusted very well and have utilized their new home as a great learning space. This is in large part to how Mrs. Christensen and Mrs. Gordon responded to the change and the positive outlook they modeled for their students. Our 5th grade students who remained in a closed room but were separated from the rest of their 5th grade friends have also responded well, taking advantage of the multiple opportunities to see their friends throughout the day. This positive response is also a reflection of Ms. Olesnevich, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. Christensen and how they navigated this move. Thank you to all of the

parents and guardians who provided support and positive messages to your children throughout this process.

I also thank the 1st grade teachers, students, and families who moved to new classrooms. Ms. Branciforte and Mrs. Karlins worked hard to create a new space for their first grade students that was welcoming and set them up for a successful remainder of the school year. Ms. Plonski collaborated closely with her grade level partners to ensure continued cohesion with the entire first grade classrooms, even though her students remained in the wing - separated from the other 1st grade children. I am also very grateful to first grade parents and guardians for supporting your child and your child's teacher through this process.

I also thank our PTA and especially our outgoing Board Members at this time. The Keeney PTA is a wonderful organization for our school in providing great experiences for our Cubs. A special note of gratitude to our outgoing PTA Board members President Amber Moriarty, Vice President Niki Gallagher-Garcia, Secretary Tamara Speaks, and Treasurer Amy Syme for working so hard with families as well as school personnel to strengthen our home-school partnership. And welcome to our new board members: PTA President Karen Freund, Vice-Presidents Danielle Pellingra and Corrie Brindamour, secretary Jesse Johnson, Treasurer Rhiannon Crawford, and continuing board member for membership Toni Zanks.

I have recently informed families about upcoming retirements and other movements happening with our school staff. In addition to the staff members previously identified, our school psychologist Adina Ciobotaru, has recently made the decision to resign her position. She is looking forward to extended time home with her young children. We certainly wish her well and I know many members of our school community will miss her.

I hope everyone enjoys the last few weeks of school. Please continue to look for Keeney Connections for additional news and information!

Julie



2015-2016 Highlights/Celebrations

Genius Hour

- All 2nd - 5th grade students participated in at least one Genius Hour Session this year!
- We have been accessing parents and community members as Genius Hour Mentors during this last round of Genius Hour. We were delayed in starting this process due to a technological problem with our database which was finally resolved a few weeks ago.
- This year we have also begun to teach and provide feedback on certain capacities (critical thinking, problem solving, innovative thinking, communication, collaboration, and self-direction) as a way to measure growth in essential academic behaviors and skills. These capacities are also being used at the High School level.

Coffee Conversations

- We have hosted two coffee conversations this year. One focused on general academics and the Workshop Model and the other focused on Restorative Practices.
- We had some returning family members to the second coffee conversation and some new ones as well.
- During both sessions, staff members and teachers join in the discussion.
- In addition to sharing information, this has proven to be a time where we build and strengthen relationships with each other.

Classroom Circles

- All classrooms have been running circles to strengthen community, build social connections, and prepare for restorative conversations.
- In some cases, parents have had the opportunity to participate in these circles.
- Look for more information about circles and restorative practices coming to our school website soon!

Introducing our Kindergarten Team



Mrs. Woble Mrs. Kratz Ms. Elmore

Reading

Spring is here and Kindergartners are reading bigger, more challenging books! They are working to increase their reading stamina to the goal of fifteen minutes by the end of kindergarten. They are also practicing their reading strategies, using their Super Reader Powers! (Pointer Power, Picture Power, Sound Power, Snap Word Power, and Reread Power.) As the end of the year approaches, Kindergartners are working to become 'Avid Readers'. The children are looking at the body language of avid readers as well as learning the skills to become an avid reader.

Math

Kindergartners have been working all year to gain a good foundation in number sense. We began the year focusing on counting a number of objects accurately and learning to tell "how many?" with a number. We have worked hard to learn to recognize and write numbers to 20 and beyond. We have been counting to 100, learning to add and subtract within 10, and composing and decomposing teen numbers. Kindergarten will end the year with our units on Geometry and Measurement.

Writing

Kindergartners have been working hard on writing all year long! We started the year writing about small moments in our lives. Then we worked on a unit on Nonfiction Writing. The children learned how to write about a topic that they know a lot about. We have now moved on to our last unit on Opinion Writing. The children are working hard to convince their audience of their viewpoints. And boy do they have strong opinions!

Play

Kindergarten has been working hard at play this year. Through play many friendships have developed and grown. The children have learned valuable life lessons such as sharing, caring, problem solving and self advocacy. Through play they are increasing their oral language skills, using higher level thinking, and building upon their creativity. It is wonderful to see how the children have blossomed through play this year.





Introducing our First Grade Team



Ms. Plonski Mrs. Karlins Ms. Branciforte

It's hard to believe this school year is already coming to a close. We are so proud of the progress our first graders have made this year! They have learned and grown so much.

Some of the students favorite memories from this year include: being star student, imagineering, making new friends, our Read Across America week long celebration, chasing the Gingerbread Man and eating the gingerbread cookies he left for us, and watching the caterpillars change into butterflies.

As you enter the break, please remember to read with your child throughout the summer. We would like for every student to start the next school year off ready to learn new things! Thank you for all that you have done to support your child's success in school this year.



Ms. Haveles

Spring Concerts:

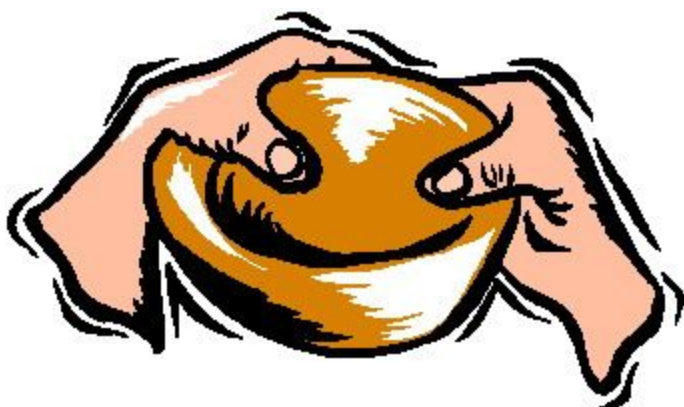
We will have our Spring Concerts on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 10:00a.m. and 2:15p.m. in the Keeney gym for Keeney staff and students. **Our evening concert for parents and families will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:00p.m. in Bennet Academy's Cone Gymnasium.** The Fourth and Fifth Grade Band, Fourth and Fifth Grade Orchestra, and Fifth Grade Chorus will perform at all three concerts. We look forward to seeing parents and families at the evening concert.

Volunteer Breakfast:

If you volunteered at Keeney Street School during this school year we would like to cordially invite you to a special event to thank you for all you have done.

On Monday, June 6th we will host a Volunteer Breakfast in the Keeney cafeteria at 9:30am.

All students grades K-5 have prepared performances for you to honor all that you have done to support Keeney Street School this school year. We hope you will be able to join us. Invitations for this event were sent home a few weeks ago, but there is also an invitation on the school's website for you to print and send in.



Ms. Punty

As a conclusion to our ceramics unit, fourth and fifth graders glazed their pottery. This was a very exciting process. Instead of painting fired clay pots, students applied a chemical substance (glaze) to their pots.

When they were re-fired at close to 2000 degrees, this chalky chemical substance turned to glass. Thus, we bring science into the artroom.

Last month Keeney had a wonderful exhibit at the Lutz Museum. Keeney families arrived at the museum at 6:30 and were surrounded by excellent fiddle music by a sixth grade student from Bolton. Children played in and enjoyed the museum exhibits. They proudly posed for pictures in front of their artwork. Families visited and socialized. At 7:00 PM, museum director Robert Ekert spoke to families about the importance of the arts, including musical arts. We followed that up with a sing-a-long. Then Keeney student artists were called up on the stage to pose for pictures and to receive a ribbons for their outstanding work. Congratulations to the following students who had artwork on display at the Lutz:

Naiara Arias Seven Freeman Lilianna Iglesias Jeremy Orszak Meredith Rocke Khloe Wizzard April Compton Aexa Garcia Olivia Jagiello Lorenzo Mancini Iyanna Sheets Romeo Torres	Lydia Whelton Sean Conley Kendra Zanks Ryan Benson Sofia DaSilva Ava Mateo RJ Moore Anila Shah Gianna DiSalvatore Erika Frost Lucas Garcia Isabella Lombardo	Joseph Mugovero Brian Salazar Kenneth and Bradley Carlson Kendyll Moore Sonja Mumford Janelle Solis Brady Adams Grace and Mary Buckland Sage Lerario Dylan MacKenna Jenallise Morales Simran Waseem Jeremy Zilora
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Three students have artwork on display at Central Office. Congratulations to second grader Aiden Dougan and first graders Shruti Shah, and Madison Harrison.

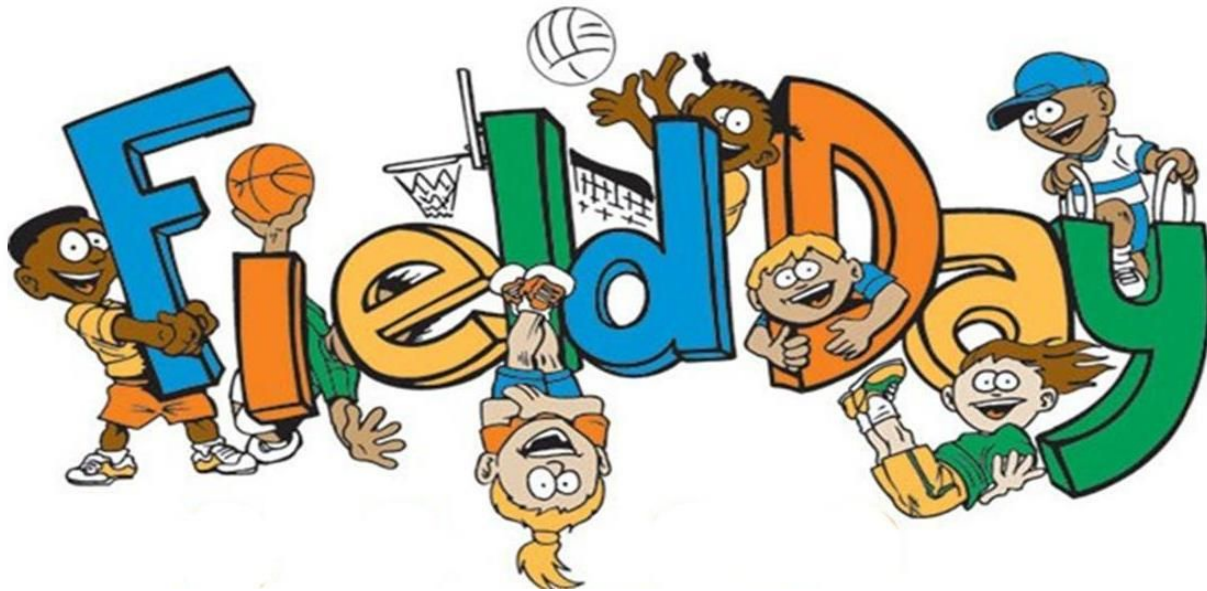
Congratulations to Kindergarteners Naiara Arias, Khloe Wizzard, Gianna DiSalvatore, and Presley Conley. Their marker drawings of a special person in their lives was displayed in Manchester's first annual Community Open Mic Night Friday, April 28.

Ten students will have artwork on display at the fifth annual Manchester Community Youth Art Initiative entitled Things at the Ocean. This is a fun event open to the community. In addition to a town-wide school art exhibit, other entertaining projects will include creative activities like "create your own cupcake" and "create your own masterpiece". The event will take place at the Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center, 153 Spruce Street. The students who will be displaying their artwork are kindergarteners Thomas Chuong and Trisha Shah and first grader Anthony Tate. Second graders Keon Roberts, Justin Shuh, and Myra Rocke, will have their ocean themed paintings on display. Fourth graders who will have sea-worthy artwork on display include Cadence Norige, Dane Song, and Janze' Richardson. Fifth grader, Elizabeth Swedis will have her fanciful ocean-themed painting on display at the Things at the Ocean exhibit May 20, 5:30 through 8:00 PM. Congratulations to those ten students.

Congratulations to Averie Rizzo. Averie won first place for the first grade division of the Save the Sound poster contest. She was in competition with over 200 students from around the state! Averie's poster will be featured on one month of the 2017 Save the Sound calendar.



So many wonderful things are coming to closure at the 2015-2016 school year winds down. We are so proud of our Keeney artists.



This time of year not only is exciting because of the nicer weather, but because of the excitement surrounding our upcoming field day. The students really get excited as they practice some relays which emulate many of the activities they perform on that day. I have also received a fair number of emails from parents offering to volunteer on one or both of the possible days. **We could still use more help at the stations for June 7, the first planned date, and June 8 which is the rain date.** If you are able to assist in any part of the day, or the whole day, please email me at b21gdeni@mpspride.org. It is certainly a wonderful way to spend the day with all the students and staff. Looking forward to seeing you.

Yours in health, Mr. DeNies

It's hard to believe that it's already May and that the first year of STEM is already winding down. Our Keeney cubs in kindergarten, grade one and grade two have really been busy over the last few months learning exciting new things.

In kindergarten, all the classes have been discovering the properties of matter. They have learned all about their five senses and how to use them to learn about and make observations about the world around them. They have been working on sorting and have also been introduced to how to use a scale.



The students in grade one have been spending time finding out all about animal life cycles. Students in all the first grade classrooms have also had the opportunity to raise their own caterpillars! In all three classrooms, students were able to observe the butterfly life cycle and then participated in releasing them outside.

Grade two learners have been busy gaining new knowledge about plants. They have been learning all about plant parts and what plants need to survive-sun, water, and air. All the students have also been using what they have learned to try and sprout radish seeds. A few of the seeds have even already started to grow roots!

I hope that everyone has a great end of the school year and keeps up with their scientific observations over the summer break! It's been wonderful having a chance to work with all these new scientists!

A Glance into STEM Grades 3-5 ☹️ Ms. Seaha

As we move into our final unit in fifth grade, we will be exploring the structure and function of the human senses. Students have enjoyed learning about the various parts of the eye in our previous unit on light, so we will continue our study on the functions of the tongue, nose, and ear as well. We will also discover the role of the brain and the spinal cord in response to information received from our sensory organs!

In fourth grade, we will be moving into our unit on land and water which will give us plenty of opportunity to relocate our learning outdoors. We will begin by exploring the water cycle which will lead us into our study of the role of water in erosion and river formation. Students will use stream tables to look closely at factors that affect erosion such as the type of earth material in an area, the speed of moving water, and the slope of land. Our recent field trip to the Connecticut Audubon Society in Glastonbury served as the perfect lead in to this work!

Third graders will kick off their final unit on conserving and recycling by taking a look at how Earth's natural resources such as fossil fuels, trees, water, soil, and rocks improve their lives every single day. We will also discover the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling in maintaining our Earth. Students will be introduced to the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and nonrenewable energy resources. Please help to reinforce the importance of conserving and recycling by engaging your child in this process at home!

Summer vacation is almost here! During your child's school vacation, it is important for him to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis—whether he is a very beginning reader or a fluent reader. Luckily, summer's more flexible schedule and wide array of activities lend themselves to literacy opportunities. Try some of these suggestions for making your child's summer full of literacy fun:

- **Be a reader and writer yourself.** When you spend time reading books on the beach or even directions for how to put together the grill this summer, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.
- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading.** Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.
- **Read aloud to your reader.** As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information. You also enjoy the closeness of sharing a book with your child.
- **Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities.** Read your child books about camping, such as “Webster and Arnold Go Camping”, before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.
- **Help your child select books at a “just right” level.** Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what he read, the book is probably at a “just right” level. If you are having troubling judging, consult your local children's librarian, who is likely to be an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the “rule of thumb” in selecting books: if he makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

- **Encourage your child not to limit summer reading to books.** Encourage your child to read the sports page to check up on her favorite baseball team or to read children's magazines such as Ranger Rick and National Geographic World.
- **Read a book and watch the video together.** When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer. Many books, including "Stone Fox", "Sarah, Plain and Tall" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," are available in movie versions.
- **Take books along on outings.** Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer.
- **Encourage your child to write this summer, too.** From writing postcards to friends and relatives to keeping a journal while on a trip, summer presents unique ways for your child to write about his own experiences. Have your child pack a disposable camera on vacations or day trips and help him create a book about his experiences.





**Lesley
Sherman
Math Coach**

Math Picture Books

Check out some of these books with your child the next time you are at the library. Happy reading!

Number Sense

A Million Fish.....More or Less, by Patricia C. McKissack

A Three Hat Day, by Laura Geringer

Two of Everything, by Lily Toy Hong

Counting

I Hunter, by Pat Hutchins

Grandpa Gazillions Number Yard, by Laurie Keller

How Many Feet? How Many Tails?: A Book of Math Riddles, by Marilyn Burns

Measurement

Jim and the Beanstalk, by Raymond Briggs

Pigs in the Pantry: Fun with Math and Cooking, by Amy Axelrod

What's Smaller Than a Pygmy Shrew?, by Robert E. Wells



Keeney Street School PTA

With the close of another school year upon us, we want to thank you for your support throughout the school year. The PTA has been so fortunate to work with a strong community of parents, teachers, staff and mostly wonderful children. It has taken the efforts of countless individuals this year to provide our cubs with assemblies, family events, educational opportunities and funding for field trips and enrichment opportunities. We thank you all for your contributions great and small. Without them, none of these things could have been possible.

Please join us at our final meeting for the school year on Tuesday, June 7th from 6:30-7:30pm in the school cafeteria. The MHS National Honor Society will be on hand to do crafts with the kids.

Please watch for a notice regarding our first PTA meeting of the 2016/17 school year.

End of the Year PTA Family Events:

- **Staff Professional Day** – Wednesday May 18th - Early Dismissal 1:17pm.
- **Spirit Day** – Friday, May 27th - 5th Grade Choice – proceeds to benefit the 5th grade party.
- **Memorial Day** – Monday, May 30th – No School.
- **Volunteer Tea** – Monday, June 6th at 9:30am – The Cubs will be performing under the direction of our wonderful Miss Haveles!
- **Field Day** – Tuesday, June 7th – Rain Date June 8th.
- **PTA Meeting** – Tuesday, June 7th – 6:30-7:30pm.
- **Spirit Day** – Thursday, June 9th - Hawaiian Day – Dress in your favorite island gear! A \$1 donation to the PTA appreciated

- **Ice Cream Social** – Thursday, June 9th – The Cubs will enjoy sweet treats from the PTA.
- **Fun Time Fair** – Saturday, June 11th from 11am-1pm – Come out for a super-fun time!
- **Last Day of School** – Monday, June 13th - Have a Happy and Safe Summer!!

Please remember to submit your **Box Tops!!!** We will collect them for the fall program!

Special Thank You to the following individuals:

- Thank you to Toni Zanks and Connie Anglin for planning our Annual Breakfast with a Buddy! It was a delicious way to celebrate with our Keeney Community.
- Thanks to the following individuals that helped out at the Buddy Breakfast: 1st grade teachers Mrs. Karlins, Mrs. Plonski, and Mrs. Branciforte, Mary Buccino, Eva Kavanagh, Barb McVeigh, Donald Thompson and all of the cafeteria and custodial staff, and Ken Crawford, Karen & Julian Freund, Niki Garcia, Isabelle & Dan Whelton and the students. This event was a huge success and over 150 people enjoyed breakfast with their families and friends, but it couldn't have been possible without all of the volunteers!
- Thank you to Toni Zanks for coordinating our Spring Gift Card Fundraiser!
- Thank you to Jesse Johnson & Puja Pradhan for coordinating our Family Bowling Event at Spare Time Lanes. It was a blast!!

Special Thanks to Addison Hall, Grace Papa and Tyler Moriarty for their presentation at our last PTA meeting taking us on a tour of the special landmarks of Manchester

Come to our next meeting on **Tuesday, June 7th from 6:30-7:30pm** and find out how you can get involved. Any amount of time that you can devote to helping is appreciated! We look forward to meeting you all!

“Some of the best memories are made in flip flops.” – Kellie Elmore